

Senate Research Committee
Minutes of Meeting
Thursday, May 25, 2000 at 10:00 a.m. in room S-205

Present: J. Beaudoin, C. Bédard, E. Besso, F. Haghighat, R. Hale, R. Lachapelle,
B. Layne, T. Mak, J. McGuire, D. Pushkar, R. Roy

Regrets: R. Bhat, N. Howe, N. Sajnani

1. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved.

2. The Minutes of the meeting of Thursday, March 30, 2000 were approved (Dr. Besso, Dr. Hale). The Minutes of the meeting of Thursday, April 27, 2000 were approved (Dr. Haghighat, Dr. Besso).

There was a question regarding whether CUPFA members would be expected to adhere to the new University Ethics policy. B. Layne explained that there was an attempt underway to get CUPFA on board; on the same vein, B. Layne also explained that the Studio Arts had been in discussion with F. Bird, the author of the document, and Dr. Bird hoped that soon there would be a resolution to Studio Arts' refusal to comply with the guidelines.

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

HREC policy: the Ethics document was modified and was approved at Senate. There was substantial discussion on the definition of research, particularly as it relates to the Fine Arts. It was determined that if the project is fundable by SSHRC, it should be subject to the rules of the Ethics policy; if the project is fundable by Canada Council only, then it could be exempt from the internal policy.

Membership: the SRC will need a member-at-large for 2000-01, to replace Dr. Pushkar, whose term has ended. The Secretary will find a replacement and bring the nomination to SRC for approval.

Canada Research Chairs: SRC's comments were forwarded by memo to the Provost, as requested. Dean Bédard will be speaking at Senate at the June 9 meeting, where he will be explaining the parameters of the CRC program.

There were questions from the members of SRC regarding the plans for development of a new Strategic Research Plan for the CRC program. The Chair explained that the plan would be drafted over the summer and then would go through the normal approval process.

4. Chair's report

Item combined with Business Arising above.

5. Report from the Director, Office of Research Services

The Director's Report is attached.

6. Question period

There were no questions.

7. New Business

7.1. Research funding trends

Dr. Besso circulated a summary of notable trends in research at Concordia from 1989-90 to 1998-99. A copy of the summary and the overheads is attached to these Minutes.

Among the issues that were raised was that Concordia needs to find a way to track non-funded research; with research funding being more difficult to obtain in some fields, some researchers continue to produce even without external funding, something which should be acknowledged and recorded.

When asked if this report will be disseminated, the Chair replied that either he will present a summary of Dr. Besso's report at Senate or Dr. Besso will be invited to do so herself in the Fall.

8. Information

The information flyers for the Steacie Fellowships 2001 competition were distributed.

9. The next meeting will be in September 2000, date to be determined.

10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 noon.

REPORT of E. M. Besso, Director of ORS, at the SRC meeting of May 25, 2000

1. News relating to Intellectual Property

- Met with Innocentre regarding the Storms / Tsang IP commercialization. This is the first follow-up in the framework of Corporation VIP.
- Slow progress in advancing on R. Le Van Mao commercialization file with Innocentre.

2. CAURA Meeting report

A. Funding agency – related news

- **CRC** – - there will be a \$125K budget from the CFI associated with each Chair
- René Durocher is the newly-hired executive director for the program
- **CIHR** – - legislation creating it expected by end of May
- “Interdisciplinary Health Research Teams” (avg 11 investigators from 5 institutions); expected 30% SR
- CAHR’s 178 LoI received; 42 invited to submit full proposal; \$400K average request; expected SR of 45%.
- Sep 2000 competition – 6 revised/new committees; all others same as MRC’s in past year
- Budget for 2000-2001 \$340M (CAHR+ IHRT = \$35M)
- **CFI** – no competition until 2001; monitoring visits this Fall for > \$4M project
- **NSERC** – “Collaborative Research Opportunities” new research funding to establish international collaborations
- NSERC now ensuring compliance with the Canada Environmental Assessment Act (CEAA); will lead to new regulation in 2001
- **Genome Canada** – 5 Centres to be created across Canada (1 in each region)
- Each centre to have its own area of specialization; each centre envisaged to address 3 axes, namely: 1. Genotyping, sequencing, proteomics; 2. Bioinformatics; 3. Automation and technology
- Funding of \$160M over 5 years

B. Electronic Application Forms – SSHRC demonstrated great progress

C. Administrative structures for effective support of research activity

- Separate vs. Integrated offices of Research Services and Research Funds
- Separate vs. integrated Research and Graduate studies responsibilities